

Register of Historic Kansas Places

Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church

Other name/site number 009-0000-0089

2. Location

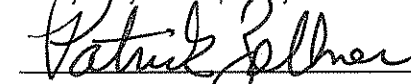
Street & number 498 NE 110 Avenue ☐ not for publication

City or town Ellinwood ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Barton Code 009 Zip code 67526

3.,4. Certification

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.



Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

12/4/07

Date

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals:

Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE: Limestone

Walls: BRICK

Roof: ASPHALT

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the State Register)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1892

Significant Dates

1892

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	4	5	3	7	3	6	0	4	2	5	3	9	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						
2														

3														
Zone		Easting						Northing						
4														

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Tim Wenzl, Diocesan Archivist / Joe Hickel / KSHS Staff

Organization Diocese of Dodge City Date 28 June 2007

Street & number PO Box Telephone _____

City or town Dodge City State KS Zip code 67801

Property Owner

Name Sts. Peter and Paul Heritage Association

Street & number 1107 NE 50 Road Telephone _____

City or town Ellinwood State KS Zip code 67526

Register of Historic Kansas Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Ellinwood, Barton County, KS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church (1892) is located at 498 NE 110 Avenue five miles north of Ellinwood, Barton County, Kansas. The church, parsonage, school, and parsonage are nestled amongst a group of mature trees, which stand out on the surrounding rural landscape. A tornado struck the property on May 4, 2007, and the church sustained a significant amount of damage – especially to its tall bell tower. The owners elected to repair the building rather than demolish it.

Elaboration

Sts. Peter and Paul Church sits at the junction of NE 110 Avenue and NE 50 Road and faces west. The parsonage sits behind (east) the church and faces north. A cemetery sits beyond the parsonage to the east on NE 50 Road. Across the street from the parsonage are Sts. Peter and Paul School, which closed in the 1960s, and the old convent. The church, however, is the only structure included in this nomination.

Built in 1892, the church is an example of a gable-front, two-story brick building. The church exhibits the characteristic centered gable front entrance on the west elevation and five Gothic influenced stained glass windows on the north and south side elevations. A semicircular apse, which was added in about 1904, is located on the rear (east) elevation. A gable wall chimney once extended through the roofline where the apse connects to the main body of the church, however, it, too, was brought down by the tornado. The foundation is made of native stone. The roof is covered with asphalt composite shingles.

According to the county's property records, the church measures 42 feet across the front and 84 feet along the side. The apse on the rear of the structure extends it another 24 feet.

A central bell tower dominates the front façade. A Gothic stained glass window and a projecting gable top the double door entrance. The second story of the bell tower is defined by a deeply recessed single arched stained glass window. Prior to the tornado, the bell tower extended two stories above the roofline. The bell was housed in the section of the tower and each elevation included a single Gothic-influenced louver vent. The bell tower was hit very hard by the recent tornado and is being leveled off during the current renovations. The corners of the tower structure are enhanced by decorative brickwork and limestone.

There is a single Gothic stained glass window on either side of the central bell tower entrance. The left (north) window was destroyed by the tornado. The roofline on the front façade is accented by stair-stepped decorative brickwork.

Five bays make up the north and south side elevations and are defined by buttresses. There are five evenly spaced stained glass Gothic windows. The window frames are wood and feature limestone sills. The bottom section of each window features a metal hopper window. Decorative brickwork enhances the roofline. There is a cornerstone on the south elevation at the building's southwest corner noting its completion in 1892.

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Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Ellinwood, Barton County, KS

Interior

The interior of the church is dominated by the large sanctuary space. One enters the sanctuary through a small vestibule at the west end of the church. To the left and right are stairs leading up to a choir loft above the entrance. There is a central aisle with wooden pews on either side, which leads to the former communion rail, pulpit, and three intricate altarpieces. The large central altarpiece, located within the apse, is particularly detailed and features likenesses of Sts. Peter and Paul. Smaller, yet similarly detailed altarpieces are on either side of the apse. The south altarpiece was sustained water damage during the storm of May 4, 2007.

There is a single door on each north and south sidewall of the apse that leads to a small space. The Stations of the Cross are located between the tall stained glass windows on both the north and south walls. The church also includes many historic statues and pieces of art.

The lathe and plaster walls and corbel vault ceiling were covered with acoustic tiles sometime in the mid-twentieth century. Historic light fixtures hang throughout the sanctuary. The tornado damage to the roof allowed moisture into the sanctuary causing localized damage to the ceiling and south altarpiece. Some ceiling tiles have fallen revealing the old stenciled plaster.

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Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Ellinwood, Barton County, KS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church (1892) is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places for its architectural significance as a late nineteenth century Gothic-inspired church.

Property History

The following text is taken from Timothy Wenzl's *A Legacy of Faith: The History of the Diocese of Dodge City* published in 2001:

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, north of Ellinwood, traces its origin back to the date of the first Mass in this Barton County settlement. Father Felix Swembergh, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Newton, celebrated Mass for the first time June 4, 1875 in the home of William Kliesen.¹

The settlement was founded by twelve German and Austrian families from Illinois and Missouri in 1875. These settlers were followed by others from Michigan.

The faith quickly took root here. Under the direction of Father Swembergh, a frame church was begun. The entire community took a hand in the work. When these pioneer parishioners weren't working on their farms, they were working on their church. By the fall of 1876, the modest structure, measuring 23 by 36 feet, was complete. Bishop Louis Mary Fink dedicated the frame church to the patrons Sts. Peter and Paul on September 18, 1876.

Sts. Peter and Paul Church stood as a lone sentinel on the plains; its short stubby steeple could be seen from a great distance. The settlement soon became a center of worship for the Catholic settlers in Barton County and parts of western Rice County.



Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church - 1892

¹ *Advance Register*, June 4, 1965, p. 1.

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Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Ellinwood, Barton County, KS



Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church – 1909 or 1910

Sts. Peter and Paul remained on Father Swembergh's itinerary until 1878 when St. Joseph's Parish in Ellinwood received its first resident pastor. The settlement's close proximity to Ellinwood proved a great advantage as Masses increased from monthly to weekly, with Sunday liturgies twice a month.

Catholic education always played a prominent role in this rural Barton County parish. In 1886, a modest frame school building was constructed drawing many families to the area.

The parish grew substantially and by 1891, the frame church was inadequate for the needs of the prosperous mission. A new church was started in the fall and was

completed early the following year. Bishop John J. Hennessy dedicated the church and celebrated the first Mass May 17, 1892.²

A two-story school building was constructed in 1927 to provide more classrooms for the growing student population. Lay teachers were the first instructors in the parish school when it began back in 1886. Dominican Sisters began teaching at Sts. Peter and Paul School in 1906. They staffed the school until 1910 and again from 1921 to 1966 when the school closed. The Sisters of St. Joseph taught in the school from 1912 to 1920.

Sts. Peter and Paul continued to be served by the pastors from Ellinwood until 1898, when Father John Disselkamp was appointed first resident pastor. Ten resident pastors followed. From 1972 until the parish closed in 1986, it was served by the pastors assigned to Immaculate Conception Church in Claflin.

Father Gerald Hammeke, a native of the parish, was the first priest ordained for the new Diocese of Dodge City in 1952.

The church is now maintained by the Sts. Peter & Paul Heritage Association.

Religious vocations from the parish include two priests and nine Sisters.

² *Ellinwood Leader*, April 27, 1967.

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Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Ellinwood, Barton County, KS

Caption: In 1927, Father William Schaefer, editor of the Catholic Advance, wrote the following for the parish's golden anniversary booklet: "That church is a monument to the tenacity of purpose shown by the founders of the parish."

Additional Property Information

The Reverend L. Epp oversaw the construction of the present church in 1892, which cost \$12,000. The rectory was built in 1900 at a cost of \$3,000. Electricity and plumbing were installed in the church and rectory in 1919. A few years later artists were employed to fresco the church.

Statues in the church include:

Sacred Heart of Jesus
Two Blessed Virgin
St. Peter
St. Paul
St. John the Apostle
St. Joseph with Christ Child
St. Boniface
St. Nicholas
St. Ann
St. Kathryn
St. Therese, the Little Flower
St. Anthony with Christ Child
Risen Christ
Infant Jesus of Prague
Pieta – Blessed Mother Holding Crucified Christ
Archangel Michael
4 Angel Statues on Main Altarpiece

Architecture – Criterion C

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church is an example of a Gothic-influenced gable-front, two-story brick building. It exhibits the characteristic centered gable front entrance on the west elevation and five Gothic influenced stained glass windows on the north and south side elevations. A semicircular apse is located on the rear (east) elevation. Despite the recent damage to the church bell tower, it retains much of its architectural wonder.

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Section Number 9 Page 6

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Ellinwood, Barton County, KS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

100th Anniversary of Sts. Peter & Paul Church. Pamphlet celebrating completion of existing church.
June 13, 1993.

125th Anniversary of Sts. Peter & Paul Church. Pamphlet celebrating the founding of the congregation.
November 19, 2000.

Hickel, Joe. *Rural Sts. Peter and Paul, Mother Church of Diocese.* Unpublished, undated manuscript.
Copy retained in property file, Cultural Resources Division, Kansas State Historical Society.

Wenzl, Timothy F. *A Legacy of Faith: The History of the Diocese of Dodge City.* Dodge City, KS:
Catholic Diocese of Dodge City, 2001.

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Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 & Photos Page 7

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Ellinwood, Barton County, KS

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated building sits on the following parcel in Section 5, Township 19, Range 11W: COM 30 S & 50 E NW COR TH E 500, S 234, W 500, N 234 TO POB. The nominated area only includes the church building and a 10' perimeter surrounding the building.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated area only includes the church building and a 10' perimeter surrounding the building.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The following information applies to all the photographs listed below:

Property Name: Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Location: Ellinwood vicinity, Barton County, KS
Photographer: Sarah J. Martin
Date: May 12, 2007

- Photo 1: West (front) elevation from across the highway, facing E
- Photo 2: West (front) elevation, facing E
- Photo 3: West (front) elevation, facing E
- Photo 4: Tower damage, facing SE
- Photo 5: South (side) elevation, facing N
- Photo 6: Southwest corner showing damage to roof and tower, facing N
- Photo 7: Interior, showing damage to south altarpiece and ceiling, facing E
- Photo 8: Close-up of ceiling where acoustic tiles have fallen from water damage, facing E
- Photo 9: Stained glass window, facing S
- Photo 10: Ceiling detail showing historic stenciling on plaster

Sts. Peter & Paul Church
Ellinwood vic., Barton Co., KS

14: 537360 E
4253900 N

Ellinwood NE Quad

